

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1 and 3-17 were pending in the application prior to this amendment.

With this amendment, claims 1 and 3-17 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter. Claims 18-31 are hereby presented for consideration. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

### **II. Objections**

Claims 1 and 3-17 were objected to for minor informalities.

As indicated above, claims 1 and 3-17 have been cancelled, rendering the objections directed to these claims moot.

### **III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 6, 8-11 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,352,327 to Yano, et al. (hereafter, "Yano") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,951 to Ikemoto, et al. (hereafter, "Ikemoto") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,963 to Ando, et al. (hereafter, "Ando").

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 12, 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yano in view of Ikemoto and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,217,149 to Takagi, et al. (hereafter, "Takagi") and Ando.

As indicated above, claims 1 and 3-17 have been cancelled, rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

### **IV. New Claims**

Claims 18-31 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner.

Applicants submit that in the present invention, a print head includes a plurality of chips, each of the chips include a plurality of print elements and the plurality of print elements in each of the chips are divided into a plurality of groups. The print elements in each of the groups are allocated to a plurality of drive blocks corresponding to a plurality of time-division drive

blocks, and part of the print elements in the chips adjoining each other in the column direction are overlapped in a scan direction that crosses the column direction.

New independent claim 22 recites, *inter alia*:

“A printing apparatus for printing an image by using a print head, wherein the print head has a plurality of chips deviated from each other in a column direction, each of the chips have a plurality of print elements aligned in the column direction, the plurality of print elements in each of the chips are divided into a plurality of groups, the print elements in each of the groups are allocated to a plurality of drive blocks corresponding to a plurality of time-division drive blocks, part of the print elements in the chips adjoining each other in the column direction are overlapped in a scan direction that crosses the column direction, the number of the overlapping print elements is equal in number to an integer times the number of the print elements constituting the group...”

Independent claims 18, 26, 28 and 30 recite similar features to claim 22 as described above. Support for this feature may be found, for example, on page 22 of the original Specification.

Applicants submit that none of the cited references, (i.e., Yano, Ikemoto, Ando and Takagi) taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that “part of the print elements in the chips adjoining each other in the column direction are overlapped in a scan direction that crosses the column direction, the number of the overlapping print elements is equal in number to an integer times the number of the print elements constituting the group”, as required by new independent claim 22.

By contrast, Ikemoto discloses in Fig. 17 that the number of overlapping nozzles is 3 and the number of print elements constituting the group is 6. Therefore, the number of overlapping print elements is not equal in number to the print elements constituting the group times an integer value.

Accordingly, each of claims 18, 22, 26, 28 and 30 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Yano, Ikemoto, Takagi and Ando), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18, 22, 26, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above.

However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

Applicants have not specifically addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the independent claims from which they respectively depend, either directly or indirectly, are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Accordingly, the dependent claims also are in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

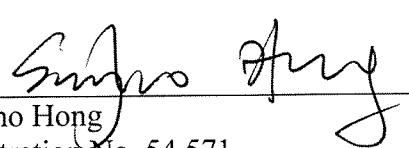
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1232-5326**. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. **1232-5326**. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: November 29, 2007

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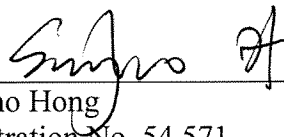
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